

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2003.

In the Office Action, Applicant's Claims 1-18, 20 and 21 were allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of these claims.

In the Office Action, Applicant's Claim 19 was rejected as obvious over the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 6,112,174 ("Wakisaki") and U.S. Pat. No. 5,974,419 ("Ashby"). Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

On October 21, 2003, Examiner Nolan and the undersigned discussed Applicant's Claim 19 in a telephone interview. Applicant's Claim 19 had been rejected as anticipated by Wakisaki in an Office Action dated August 1, 2003. During the interview, Examiner Nolan explained his position that Wakisaki disclosed all the limitations of Applicant's Claim 19. Applicant pointed out structural and operational differences that distinguished Claim 19 from Wakisaki. To further clarify these differences, Applicant filed an amendment of Claim 19 (Amendment "B") with an RCE on October 29, 2003. Following the filing of the RCE, Applicant's Claim 19 was rejected in the Office Action, mailed December 8, 2003. In this Office Action, Applicant's Claim 19 was rejected as obvious over Wakisaki and Ashby. This response addresses the Office Action mailed December 8, 2003. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. At least for the reasons explained below, Applicant's Claim 19 is not obvious over the combination of Wakisaki and Ashby.

Applicant's Claim 19 relates to a system that provides geographic information and includes *inter alia* an "automatic speech recognition system." The "automatic speech recognition system" of Applicant's Claim 19 uses a "word list" containing "data representations of spoken names of geographic features." In order to facilitate recognition of names of geographic features, the number of words on the "word list" is limited to "only a portion of all available data representations of spoken names of

geographic features.” To that end, the “*word list*” contains a “*first part*” that “*changes to include different words as the vehicle travels in the region.*” The “*first part*” includes “*words*” for “*names of geographic features in proximity to the current location of the vehicle.*” In addition, the “*word list*” contains a “*second part.*” The “*second part*” “*does not change . . . as the vehicle travels.*” The “*second part*” includes “*words for names of selected geographic features located throughout the region.*” Applicant’s Claim 19 further recites that both the “*first part*” and the “*second part*” are available to the “*automatic speech recognition system*” “*at the same time*” so that the words in either list can be recognized. This allows for recognition of names for geographic features located in proximity to the vehicle as well as recognition of names for selected geographic features (such as popular destinations) not located in proximity to the vehicle.

Applicant has previously explained how Claim 19 distinguishes Wakisaki. Wakisaki selects only one dictionary to be stored in a second storage section based on the location of the vehicle. (See, Wakisaki: column 2, lines 50-53.) Since each dictionary in Wakisaki corresponds to a separate geographic area and since Wakisaki uses only one dictionary at a time, the words and sentences available for speech recognition are limited to those in the geographic area around the vehicle. Therefore, Wakisaki does not disclose the feature recited in Applicant’s Claim 19 of a “*first part*” and a “*second part*” of a “*word list*”, wherein the “*second part*” “*does not change . . . as the vehicle travels*” and includes “*data representations of spoken names of selected geographic features*” that are “*located throughout the region.*”

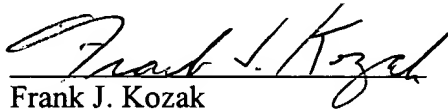
According to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2003, the combination of Wakisaki and Ashby discloses all the features of Applicant’s Claim 19. According to the Office Action, Ashby (column 5, lines 38-42) describes a system for parcelization of geographic data for storage and use in a navigation system that simultaneously represents both destination and present positions. According to the Office Action, the destination information disclosed by Ashby corresponds to the portion of Applicant’s Claim 19 that recites a “*second part*” that “*does not change . . . as the vehicle travels*” and includes “*data representations of spoken names of selected geographic features*” that are “*located throughout the region.*”

Applicant's Claim 19 is not obvious over the combination of Wakisaki and Ashby because the premise for combining Wakisaki and Ashby is incorrect. The speech recognition system of Wakisaki is used by a driver for selecting destinations. For example, Wakisaki describes how a driver makes a spoken inquiry about the "ABC" gasoline service station to which the car navigation system replies "5 KM AHEAD FROM HERE." (Wakisaki: column 6, lines 9-14.) However, the portion of Ashby cited by the Examiner as a basis for the rejection, (i.e., "simultaneously representing both the destination and present position") assumes that the destination has already been selected. If the destination has already been selected, as described in the cited portion of Ashby, the need for a driver to speak the name of the destination is obviated. Therefore, there is no logical reason to use the speech recognition system of Wakisaki to choose a destination since the destination information has already been selected, as disclosed in the cited portion of Ashby. Thus, the premise for combining Wakisaki and Ashby is incorrect.

At least for the above reason, the rejection of Applicant's Claim 19 as obvious over the combination of Wakisaki and Ashby should be withdrawn.

With this response, Applicant has addressed all the issues in the Office Action mailed December 8, 2003. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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